



**NB-24**

**Date:** November 5, 2013

**To:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

**From:** Councilmember Patrick O'Donnell, Fourth District *POD*  
Councilmember Al Austin, Eight District *al*  
Councilmember Steven Neal, Ninth District *SN*

**Subject:** Participatory Budget Presentation

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**Recommendation:**

To receive and file a presentation from the Participatory Budget Project.

**Background:**

Participatory Budgeting is a democratic process by which members of the community are given the opportunity to allocate a percentage of an entity's budget to fund projects they feel should be invested in. First implemented in Porto Alegre, Brazil, in 1989, it has since been embraced by hundreds of governments worldwide. It's popularity in the U.S. has grown in recent years, and it has been adopted by businesses, nonprofits, municipalities, and state governing bodies in various models and to varying degrees.

The goals of participatory budgeting are threefold. Participatory budgeting engages citizens in a dialogue about discretionary spending in the community, and generates social capital. It increases bureaucratic transparency, and directly connects organizations or governments with the community. Finally, it also allows for a more equitable allocation of funds to underrepresented neighborhoods and communities.

Results have shown that the community has greatly benefitted from the implementation of participatory budgeting in the United States. It is a flexible model of budget prioritization and decision-making that might be easily molded to fit the needs of the City of Long Beach and its individual Council Districts.

**Fiscal Impact:**

None



**City of Long Beach Memorandum**  
*Working Together to Serve*

## REQUEST TO ADD AGENDA ITEM

**Date:** *November 1, 2013*

**To:** Larry Herrera, City Clerk

**From:** *Councilmember Patrick O'Donnell*

**Subject:** Request to Add Agenda Item to Council Agenda of *November 5, 2013*

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Pursuant to Municipal Code Section 2.03.070 [B], the City Councilmembers signing below request that the attached agenda item (due in the City Clerk Department by Friday, 12:00 Noon) be placed on the City Council agenda under New Business via the supplemental agenda.

The agenda title/recommendation for this item reads as follows:

**Recommendation:**

**To receive and file a presentation from the Participatory Budget Project.**

Council District	Authorizing Councilmember	Signed by
4	Patrick O'Donnell	<i>Patrick O'Donnell</i>
8	Al Austin	<i>Al Austin for Al Austin</i>
9	Steven Neal	<i>RL for SN</i>